

DETAILED ACTION

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 3/15/2010 has been entered.
2. Claims 49-54 are pending.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

3. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.
4. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mark Yang on June 28, 2010.

The pending claims (i.e. claims 49-54) have been replaced as follows:

Claim 49: A communications network comprising:

a first heterogeneous element, comprising a processor and network interface, which produces a first output;

a second heterogeneous element, comprising a processor and network interface connected to said first heterogeneous element, which produces a second output;

wherein said first heterogeneous element provides a service to said second heterogeneous element to make said second output appear to be of an element that has the same time sentient nature as said first heterogeneous element,

wherein first heterogeneous element is a fuller functional station having a set of features and is fully time sentient, where fully time sentient means said fuller functional station has a clock that is coordinated with the time of a third station, and

wherein said second heterogeneous element is a lesser functional station having a reduced set of features than said fuller functional station and has a clock that cannot be coordinated with said third station and is equipped to send a Contextual Addressing Scheme message but cannot receive a Contextual Addressing Scheme message,

said Contextual Addressing Scheme message has an idealized format comprising two mutually distinct components of [Contextual Function of Contextual Variables] and [Payload],

Art Unit: 2452

wherein the service includes approximating, by said first heterogeneous element, said second output as a time output of a fuller functional station coordinated with said third station for said second heterogeneous element.

Claim 50: (Cancelled)

Claim 51: The communications network of claim 49, wherein said lesser functional station inherits a Contextual Attribute from said lesser functional station's custodial, fuller functional station.

Claim 52: The communications network of claim 49, wherein said fuller functional station has a back-up battery and the lesser functional station does not have a back-up battery.

Claim 53: The communications network of claim 49, wherein each station is time-sentient.

Claim 54: The communications network of claim 49, wherein the time-sentence of one station means that the station has an internal counter that cannot coordinate with the time outside the station, and the time-sentence of a second station means that the second station has an internal counter that does coordinate with time outside that second station.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 49 and 51-54 are allowed.
6. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art fails to disclose or suggest all limitations of the claimed invention with particular emphasis on wherein a first heterogeneous element provides a service to a second heterogeneous element to make said second output appear to be of an element that has the same time sentient nature as said first heterogeneous element, wherein first heterogeneous element is a fuller functional station having a set of features and is fully time sentient, where fully time sentient means said fuller functional station has a clock that is coordinated with the time of a third station, and wherein said second heterogeneous element is a lesser functional station having a reduced set of features than said fuller functional station and has a clock that cannot be coordinated with said third station and is equipped to send a Contextual Addressing Scheme message but cannot receive a Contextual Addressing Scheme message, said Contextual Addressing Scheme message has an idealized format comprising two mutually distinct components of [Contextual Function of Contextual Variables] and [Payload], wherein the service includes approximating, by said first heterogeneous element, said second output as a time output of a fuller

Art Unit: 2452

functional station coordinated with said third station for said second heterogeneous element.

7. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:
- (a) LIU et al - US Pat. 7194649 – "Clock synchronization for network measurements with clock resets"
 - (b) PURHO – US Pat. 7191354– "Method for synchronizing a first clock to a second clock, processing unit and synchronization system"
 - (c) MCKNETT – US Pub. 2005/0182856 "Systems and methods for creating time aware networks using independent absolute time values in network devices"
 - (d) SHER et al - US Pub. 2004/0010623 "Reducing the access delay for transmitting processed data over transmission data"
 - (e) KIMBALL – US Pub. 2003/0084190 "Apparatus and system for maintaining accurate time in a wireless environment"

Art Unit: 2452

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thomas J. Dailey whose telephone number is 571-270-1246. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Friday; 9:00am - 5:00pm.
10. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thu Nguyen can be reached on 571-272-6967. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.
11. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/T. J. D./
Examiner, Art Unit 2452

/THU NGUYEN/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2452